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< < Back

# Metro agency responds to woman's need for help paying electric bill



Nabaz Khoshnow of the Metro Action Commission

By JENNY UPCHURCH  
*Action Line*

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**PROBLEM:** Dolores McCullough has breathing problems so severe that she can't leave her Nashville house during normal days, much less during these air alerts. But she needs help to pay her electricity bills. She called *The Tennessean* for assistance.

**ACTION:** The Metro Action Commission has federal funds to help low-income people pay utility bills.

McCullough couldn't go to the office. She had called but couldn't figure out how to leave a message with the automated answering system. Plus, her breathing problems make it hard for her to speak.

So, I called the commission office and talked to Nabaz Khoshnow, who works with the program that provides utility bill assistance as well as giving out air conditioners to the elderly and disabled. I explained McCullough's health problems and asked if he could call

her. He did. And after talking with her, he mailed her an application for the utility bill help program.

Khoshnow is one of thousands in Nashville who are Kurds from Iraq. But last week, Khoshnow became a U.S. citizen!

Congratulations, Nabaz, and thank you for making sure McCullough can get the help she needs.

**WHO'S WORKING ON IT:** Nabaz Khoshnow, Metro Action Commission, 862-8860, ext. 138.

You can apply at the office at 1624 Fifth Ave. N. or you can call 862-8860, ext. 138.

Instructions are available in English, Spanish and Kurdish/Arabic.

**DAYS THAT METRO ACTION COMMISSION HAS BEEN WORKING ON IT:** 4

**UPDATE:** I wanted to clarify an Action Line that ran Sunday on Percy Warner Park. There is no proposal to ban or limit bicycles on the roads in Percy Warner. That was my idea alone. Not the Metro parks department, nor the reader who contacted me.

**HELP WITH BILLS**  
There are other programs to help with bills.  
08/29/07

- **The Tennessean Human Service** low-income, elderly Tennesseans can help cover utilities administered through the state administrator, call 862-8860.
- **Project Help, administered by Nashville and Electric Service** disabled and elderly others who cannot pay bills. For more information call 6900 or visit [www.nespower.com](http://www.nespower.com)
- **Middle Tennessee operates a "Project Help"** administered through organizations in Williamson and more information [www.mtemc.com](http://www.mtemc.com) "Community" line Help."
- **Nashville Electric** arrange for payment customers who pay by case basis. service at 736-...

After receiving many, many responses, I think that I managed to provoke controversy where I wanted to promote discussion. So, I hope I can rephrase my appeal: Can you suggest ways that all walkers, bikers and drivers can safely share Percy Warner Park and the city's other parks and greenways?

I have many valuable suggestions that I'll share in Action Line. To join the discussion, please e-mail [action@tennessean](mailto:action@tennessean.com) or writing Action Line, 1100 Broadway, *The Tennessean*, Nashville TN 37203. If you want to see some of the comments, go to [Tennessean.com](http://Tennessean.com) and search ACTION LINE.

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